

50X1-HUM

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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50X1-HUM

4. The Army Hospital had a capacity of four-hundred beds, but only a few of its buildings were up-to-date. Its plant and equipment were fair by US standards.

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50X1-HUM

- 2 -

5. The Fourth Municipal Hospital, also known as the Red Cross Hospital is located on J Asara Street. It had a capacity of 250 beds and was exclusively devoted to surgery. Its equipment and plant were modern as of 1944 and good by US standards.
6. The former Jewish hospital, probably now called the Sixth Municipal Hospital is located in Latgales Street. It had a capacity of 120 beds, was mostly devoted to surgery and was a relatively new hospital. It was built in 1941.
7. The former German Hospital is located in Miera Street. It had a capacity of 180 beds, was fairly good but definitely not modern.
8. The Childrens Hospital, located on Jelgavas highway on the south side of Riga, was a modern three hundred bed hospital which offered complete pediatric services. Its plant was good by US standards.
9. The Cancer Hospital is located on Barinu Street. It had a capacity of 120 beds and worked very closely with the University hospital. Its plant and equipment were fairly good by US standards.
10. During the German occupation of Latvia the administration of these hospitals and their staffs remained unchanged. During the period June 1940 to June 1941, however, when the Soviets had control of Latvia, many changes were made. All hospitals and medicine in general were placed under a Commissar for Health. Hospital Worker's Committees were organized, with members chosen from among hospital employees who were sympathetic to, or at least not potentially the enemies of, Communism. Since most medical doctors in Riga came from hated bourgeois families, these committees actually were dominated by the manual workers of the hospitals plus a few fellow travelling physicians. The result was chaotic, since the committees ran the hospitals and the power behind the committees might be a janitor or gardener who enjoyed particular favor with the Communist Party. Doctors, regardless of their political affiliations and beliefs, were permitted to stay on because of the critical shortage of trained medical men, but their activities were significantly limited. In the first place, their earnings were limited to a maximum of 400 rubles per working day, although it was possible to claim up to 800 rubles if they could show that they were holding down two jobs at a time. Secondly, the doctor was given no choice as to where he might work. Assignments were ordered by the Commissar of Health and there was no appeal from his decisions. Thirdly, doctor-patient relationships became severely strained. Doctors learned to fear their most humble patient because if dissatisfied with the services received he might lodge charges of bourgeois practice against the doctors and thus cause them endless strife.

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